

PRAYERS.

NOTE.—It was intended to reproduce, in this appendix, the entire number of Senate prayers, but, after considering the resolution authorizing the printing of same, find that there is no authority to warrant the reproduction and consequent printing of any save those which have not heretofore been incorporated in the journal. The Journal Clerk hereby acknowledges the urbanity of the Chaplain, Dr. Briggs, in furnishing copy of the following Senate prayer not appearing in the journal.

I.

Our Father, Who art in heaven: We bless Thee that Thou art also on earth and everywhere; hallowed be Thy name, in the mansion of the ruler, in the cottage of the poor, in thought and speech, and every written and printed page. Thy kingdom come in the halls of legislation, and in the homes and hearts of men: Thy will be done by every man, whether a legislator, a ruler or a citizen, on earth, as it is done in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread for body, mind and soul; forgive us our sins, personal and political, as we forgive those who sin against us; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from all evil that would unfit us for our duties as men, as citizens, and as servants of the State. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, and Thine be the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

II.

Our Father: Hear us in behalf of all for whom we ought to pray. Regard every statesman, every lawgiver, every brave, wise leader of the people. Give to this great State what most it needs—sturdy farmers who love God and their native land; village blacksmiths who are not ashamed of their calling; teachers of country schools who put their conscience in their work; honest merchants who put things upon their ledgers that God

puts like rose leaves in the book of his remembrance; quiet citizens who, though never heard of, yet, by their upright lives and honest ballots, make the present and control the future. And to Thy name be power and glory, now and always. Amen.

III.

Heavenly Father: Humbly and reverently we seek at thy hands help for this day's need. Up through the valley of the night Thou hast brought us; once more we stand on the shining hill-top; before us lies the rough, untraveled slope. Thou strong, wise and holy one, walk with us all the way, even into the waiting shadow at the foot, and grant that each day given us may be used so wisely that when the moment comes for us to enter that mighty shadow that men call death, we may be able to say, each one for himself: "I fear no evil, for Thou art with me, Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me," and to Thy great name be praise now and always. Amen.

IV.

Our Father: We thank Thee for the new day. It is a new page in Thy great book. On the golden hinges of the sunset and the sunrise have Thy fingers turned it until it lies full and fair before us. Teach us what to write therein. When the evening cometh may it contain no word or line that dying, we could wish to blot. We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

V.

Father of Mercies: We praise Thee for all Thy gifts. Thank God for American orators, American soldiers, American statesmen; but, above all, thank God for American mothers! Not women of the period whose jeweled hands reject the clasp of baby fingers, but honest, old-fashioned Christian mothers, who by prayers and tears and toil train up their children for God and their native land.

Multiply such mothers among us, and though no organ makes the air to blossom with melody at their coming, though no curious robes proclaim them the elect of Christ and the brides of another life, though the dust of prosaic care too often hides their beauty from themselves, yet help us to see that these are the true saints, and may their appeal be all powerful in the Senate chamber and throughout the world, we ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

VI.

Our Father: Let Thy special blessing rest upon the Governor of this State and the words which he has to-day spoken to this body and to mankind. God of all grace and wisdom, teach us what to do. Clothe these, thy servants, with strength and wisdom to meet the responsibilities that grow heavier every day; and may they have the sympathy and support of all the people in their grave and difficult duties. We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

VII.

Our Father: We commend to Thee to-day all who suffer from personal loss, household bereavement or national desolation. The love and wisdom of the God of men and nations sanctify all pain and need, all defeat and disappointment, all the manifold discipline of this weary life. May men everywhere be stronger for their weakness, richer for their losses, better for all their disappointments. What time we dwell in darkness may we come to love the light; and from the buffeting of the wind may we gain some lasting strength. Give to each of us to-day what each most needs, guidance for to-day's perplexity, release from to-day's embarrassment, an answer to the difficulty of the immediate time. May Thy goodness be to us a daily defense and a perpetual support; and may it lead us into such diligence and faithfulness that in the years at hand we may find a place in that fair city, whose hills are light, whose halls are jasper and whose streets are gold. We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

VIII.

Heavenly Father: If every morning Thy mercies are new, so also are our needs. Our life is a prolonged necessity, a perpetual cry unto Thee; yet, created by Thy hand, subsisting on

Thy bounty, and living in Thy love, it is meet and right that day by day we should come to Thy presence with praise and supplication. Thou hast promised to all who put their trust in Thee, that as their days are so shall their strength be. Keep Thy word with us for this day; clothe each member of this chamber with strength and wisdom for this day's toil, and may this and every day be so filled with faithful, fruitful labor, that Thy voice within, as well as the voices of the people without, shall say: "Well done, good and faithful servant." We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

IX.

Our Father: Great is Thy name and greatly to be praised for Thy goodness to the children of men. Consecrated to Thee, life is transformed. Then tears are jewels, loss is gain, bankruptcy is riches, and the worst things in our lives become the best things. We praise Thee; we bless Thee; we give thanks to Thee, O Lord God, Lamb of God, God the Father Almighty. Grant to us this day what we most need. Inspire the mind, the heart, the will, that there may be wise thought, brotherly fellowship, and brave, unshaken resolution. May the day's work honor the laws of God and help mankind. We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

X.

Our Father: Regard all for whom we ought to pray; especially all persons in authority, and all who in any way shape our sentiment and direct our thinking. Preserve the strong, the wise, the good, for many years, that they may teach us the glory of patriotism, the beauty of holiness, and the might of truth. All of which we ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

XI.

O, Lord, our Father: We praise Thee for the protection of the night and the coming of the day. Grant us Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be led into all truth, clothed with all needed wisdom and supplied with all strength and comfort. Destroy in us all prejudice, all misconception, every false idea and partisan notion. Emancipate the soul; lead it forth into all the width and glory of the kingdom of truth. And while we labor together, make us patient, diligent, noble-minded.

ed and charitable. We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

XII.

Our Father: Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works; Thou dost give to the wind its music, to the flower its fragrance, and its light to every star. The night is written over with the fires of Thy promise, and Thy compassions are newer than the morning. Continue Thy goodness to us this day; help us to take up our work with cheerfulness and pursue it with diligence and wisdom, and when the day is done may every moment stand a witness to our fidelity. And to Thy great name be praise and glory. Amen.

XIII.

Father of Mercies: Once more Thy peace has been the pillow for our heads, and on our tired eyelids have Thy fingers fallen, giving us sleep. We praise Thee for the time of rest and for the time of toil. May it not be toil to us, but cheerful, faithful labor, blessing both the worker and those for whom he labors. To that end may there be at this time an earnest uplifting of mind and heart to Thee. Make this moment of worship real and helpful. Forbid that it should be a mere form from which the soul has fled, the ghost of a great but dead fact which haunts the place of its burial. We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

XIV.

Our Father: Regard all whom we ought to commend unto Thee; let Thy special blessing fall upon the men who guide the armies of black types that fight our modern battles; may they make the press of this State strong, wise and incorruptible; may it speak with a prophet's earnestness and warn with a prophet's fire; may it grow to be a voice calling to duty and urging to consecration. Guide us to-day and all the days until we come into Thy presence—not as strangers, but as children coming home. We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

XV.

Father of mercies: On Thy bounty we subsist and in Thy love we live. Thou art good even to the unthankful and the evil. In the gardens of the unjust as well as the just the gentle dew distils, and on closed windows as

well as on windows open toward heaven shines the impartial glory of the sun. Hence it is, that despite our unworthiness, with loving trust and high expectation do we come. Be Thou to-day the light of the understanding, the fire of every energy and the inspiration of each will; and may we do our work so wisely and well that the very lowliest shall share the profit of our toil. Be with the absent members; prosper them on every good errand and in every upright purpose, and bring them back refreshed and strengthened for their duties. We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

XVI.

Our Father: Through Thy mercy we stand upon the border land of a new week. Impress us with the rapidity with which the days are flying. Yesterday we were children, to-day we are burdened men, to-morrow the death-storm comes and we totter to the grave of the out-worn. Forbid that such an hour should come without some real work having been done, especially by those called to serve the State and Nation. To that end bestow upon every Senator in this chamber an eye to see the highest meaning of things, and an ear to hear Thy voice speaking through life, and providence, and history. And to Thy great name be praise and glory. Amen.

XVII.

Our Father: While we labor, guard our homes. Fold the wings of peace about the brow of the aged, and put a new joy note into the laughter of the little one. Bless the State we represent, and give it a civilization strong with the justice of the Most High, and beautiful with the tenderness of Christ. Give us hope of this great world, and despite the horrors that now and then flame up from the volcanic heart of man, may we see that it is Thy world, and Thou art leading it through shine and shadow to the perfect day. And Thine be the glory. Amen.

XVIII.

Father of Mercies: Regard the men who labor here. Students of the great principles of law and government, may they be deeper students of the methods of applying these principles to the needs of all the people. Grant that every law here enacted may be an echo of the justice of God, and a

benediction to every humble artisan, every poor widow and every little child. And while they labor in this solemn work, may their health and strength and the security of their homes be precious in Thy sight. We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

XIX.

Heavenly Father: The days are going; teach us to write upon them some better things than we have yet inscribed. Our opportunity is growing less; may we labor as men who see that the sun is going down. Deepen every patriotic purpose, sustain every noble effort, and prosper every measure that is for the glory of God and the good of all the people. Regard our great land; heal all its wounds; break down every barrier that separates its children, and send the good day when there shall be one land, one

home, one law; its ruler God, its practice righteousness, and love and peace its life. We ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

XX.

Almighty God: Our life is as a flying shadow. The world of to-day is built upon the ruins of the world of yesterday, and the living find no pavement for their feet but the dust of the dead. Forbid that as men, as citizens or as servants of the State, we should spend our words or deeds on trifles, or waste the brief day of life in the mad race for prizes that perish at our touch. Teach us to speak some word that shall continue to bless mankind when the dust of death lies thickly on our lips, and may we help to build some monument that shall endure when we are gone. And to Thy name be praise and glory. Amen.